

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY DHEW/ASH/OIH:LAVOGEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 125338

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, TS

SUBJECT: DHEW/PHS/SFCP - EXTENSION PROJECT "EPIDEMIOLOGY NATURAL
HISTORY AND CONTROL OF TRACHOMA IN TUNISIA"

REF: TUNIS 3014

1. DHEW/OIH APPROVES DRAFT DIPLOMATIC NOTE REGARDING
SUBJECT PROJECT, WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO VOGEL BY COPE,
WITH FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

PARA 1 MODIFIED TO REFLECT RECEIPT SECOND DIPLOMATIC NOTE,
CHANGE PARA 3 TO READ "THE EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO INFORM THE
MINISTRY THAT THE DHEW AGREES TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR
THIS RESEARCH PROJECT FOR A PERIOD OF 2 ADDITIONAL YEARS AND
HAS ALLOCATED THE EQUIVALENT IN TUNISIAN DINARS OF
DOLS 196,000 FOR THIS PURPOSE. A DECISION REGARDING EXTENSION
FOR ADDITIONAL TIME CANNOT BE MADE THIS YEAR DUE TO
BUDET LIMITATIONS. A POSSIBLE FURTHER EXTENSION WILL BE
CONSIDERED DURING 1976. APPROVAL WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON
AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, COMPETING REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS
PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT AT THAT TIME".

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2. FYI DUE TO CURRENT USG CEILINGS ON TRAVEL THE LEVEL OF U.S. TECHNICAL PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROJECT WILL BE REDUCED. DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS PHS AND PROCTOR FOUNDATION STAFF HAVE MADE MORE THAN 45 SITE VISITS SOME FOR PERIODS OF SEVERAL WEEKS. LAST YEAR U.S. PERSONNEL SPENT MORE THAN 150 MAN-DAYS ON SITE. DURING FY 1976 ON 2 SITE VISITS SCHEDULED.

3. IN VIEW LIMITED U.S. CAPABILITY TO CONTINUE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THIS PROJECT OVER LONG HAUL AS WELL AS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND ATTENDANT IMPACT ON U.S. TECHNICAL INPUT, DHEW BELIEVES THAT INFORMAL EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO CONVEY TO THE GOT THAT TUNISIA MUST ULTIMATELY ASSUME FULL TECHNICAL AS WELL AS FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROJECT.
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